Research on lakes in the Himalayas

*397. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has blocked UN research on lakes in the Himalayas;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for the refusal;

(c) what was the main purpose of the UN research study; and

(d) whether many other countries have also offered to have a study on the lakes in the Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Government is not aware of any such offers. However, various agencies within the country are already involved in the study of the glacial lakes in the Himalayan region.

Trains from Jammu and Pathankot

*398. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last Budget Session in March-April, 2002 it was announced to start two daily trains between Jammu-Haridwar and between Pathankot and Jammu and vice-versa; and

(b) if so, by when these trains would be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 2PJ/1PJ JammuTawi-Pathankot Passenger (Diesel Multiple Unit) (6 days a week) has already been introduced w.e.f. 01.07.2002, 4609/ 4610 Jammu Tawi-Haridwar Express will be introduced during the current month i.e. August, 2002.